

present invention be limited not by the specific disclosure herein, but only by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for efficient information storage and retrieval of information, comprising the steps of:

scanning/selecting/capturing a selected portion of text of the information wherein the selected portion of text scanned is a close-to-unique identifier of the text, and serves as a key when the information is accessed electronically; and

placing the key in an electronically available index/directory to facilitate retrieval of the information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is in electronic form and the method further includes a step of storing the electronic information in a storage medium and making the electronic information available for search and retrieval using the key.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is printed and the method further includes the steps of scanning and processing the information to provide an electronic copy of the information, storing the electronic copy of the information in a storage medium and making the electronic copy available for search and retrieval using the key.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is stored in a non-commercially accessible database.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is obtained from a commercially accessible database.

6. The method of claim 1 further including, upon the user requesting retrieval of information associated with the key, providing the information associated therewith.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein further related/relevant information is also provided that is correlated with at least one of: the key and associated information.

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8. The method of claim 1 further including clipping and holding the selected portion of text as a key for accessing information that is electronically available at a later date.

9. A system for efficient information storage and retrieval of information,  
5 comprising:

an index/directory information retrieval unit, arranged to send a selected portion of text of the information to an index/directory storage unit, for scanning/selecting/capturing the selected portion of text of the information wherein the selected portion of text is a close-to-unique identifier of the text and serves as a  
10 key when the information is desired to be accessed electronically;

the index/directory storage unit, arranged to receive and store the key from the index/directory information retrieval unit, for placing the key in an electronically available index/directory to facilitate retrieval of the information from a storage medium that is accessible electronically; and

15 the storage medium that is accessible electronically, wherein the storage medium is arranged to be searched using the key held in the index/directory to identify information in the storage medium that corresponds to the key,

wherein a computer/user unit is arranged to send/receive information from/to the index/directory storage unit and the storage medium, and is arranged to request  
20 retrieval of information based on the key.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the information is in electronic form and the information is stored in electronic form in a storage medium and made accessible for search and retrieval and presentation.

25 11. The system of claim 9 wherein the information is printed and the information is scanned to provide an electronic copy of the information which is then stored in a storage medium and made accessible for search and retrieval and presentation.

30 12. The system of claim 9 wherein the information is stored in a non-commercially accessible database.

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13. The system of claim 9 wherein the information is obtained from a commercially accessible database.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein the information is obtained from local  
5 accessible storage media.

15. The system of claim 9 further including, upon the user requesting retrieval of information associated with the key, providing the information associated therewith.

10 16. The system of claim 9 wherein further related/relevant information is also provided that is correlated with at least one of: the key and associated information.

17. The system of claim 9 wherein the selected portion of text is a "clip and hold" key for accessing information that is electronically available at a later date.

15 18. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for efficient information storage and retrieval of information, comprising the steps of:

20 scanning/selecting/capturing a selected portion of text of the information wherein the selected portion of text scanned is a close-to-unique identifier of the text and serves as a key and where the information is stored and accessed electronically; and

placing the key in an electronically available index/directory to facilitate retrieval of the information.

25 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the information is in electronic form and the steps further include retrieving and indexing the information context identified by the index/directory for fast retrieval and processing.

30 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the information is in electronic form and the steps further include a step of storing the electronic

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information in a storage medium and making the electronic information accessible for search and retrieval and presentation.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the information is printed and the steps further include steps of scanning and processing the information to provide an electronic copy of the information and storing the electronic copy of the information in a storage medium and making the electronic copy accessible for search and retrieval and presentation.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the information is stored in non-commercially accessible database.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the information is obtained from a commercially accessible database.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the steps further include, upon the user requesting retrieval of information associated with the key, providing the information associated therewith.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein further related/relevant information is also provided that is correlated with at least one of: the key and associated information.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the selected portion of text is a "clip and hold" key for accessing information that is electronically available at a later date.

27. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for efficient information storage and retrieval of information, comprising the steps of:

scanning/selecting/capturing a selected portion of text of the incoming information wherein the selected portion of text scanned is a close-to-unique identifier

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of the text and serves as a "key" when the incoming information is stored and accessed electronically; and

placing the key in an electronically available index/directory on a web page/groupwise accessible area to facilitate search and retrieval of desired incoming  
5 information.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the information is in electronic form and the steps further include a step of storing the incoming electronic information in a local/distributed storage medium and making the electronic  
10 information available for search and retrieval and presentation.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the incoming information is printed and the steps further include steps of scanning and processing the information to provide an electronic copy of the information and storing the electronic  
15 copy of the information in a storage medium and making the electronic copy available for search and retrieval and presentation.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the incoming information is stored in an electronic database.  
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31. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the incoming information is obtained from a commercially accessible database.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further including, upon the user  
25 requesting retrieval of information associated with the key, providing the information associated therewith.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein further related/relevant information is also provided that is correlated with at least one of: the key and  
30 associated information.

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34. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein the selected portion of text is a "clip and hold" key for accessing incoming information that is electronically available at a later date.

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